

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-45. (canceled)

46. (previously presented) A device comprising:

a demultiplexer configured to receive a channelized synchronous optical network (SONET) data stream and separate the channelized SONET data stream into constituent tributary data streams, the tributary data streams simultaneously including:

a packet over SONET (POS) tributary data stream, and

an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) tributary data stream; and

a line card coupled to the demultiplexer and configured to provide the demultiplexer with the channelized SONET data stream.

47. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the channelized SONET data stream is received over a single optical fiber.

48. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the tributary data streams additionally include a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) over a DS tributary data stream.

49. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the channelized SONET data stream has an optical carry (OC) rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

50. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the POS tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

51. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the ATM tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

52. (currently amended) The device of claim 46, ~~wherein~~ where the tributary data streams additionally include:

a composite tributary data stream that includes a POS tributary data stream and an ATM tributary data stream.

53. (previously presented) One or more devices in a data processing environment comprising:

a multiplexer configured to simultaneously receive tributary data streams including:

a packet over synchronous optical network (POS) tributary data stream,  
and  
an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) tributary data stream,

the multiplexer being further configured to combine the simultaneously received tributary data streams into a single channelized synchronous optical network (SONET) data stream; and

a line card coupled to the multiplexer and configured to receive the single channelized SONET data stream.

54. (currently amended) The one or more devices of claim 53,~~wherein~~ where the simultaneously received tributary data streams additionally include a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) over a DS tributary data stream.

55. (currently amended) The one or more devices of claim 53,~~wherein~~ where the channelized SONET data stream has an optical carry (OC) rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

56. (currently amended) The one or more devices of claim 53,~~wherein~~ where the POS tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

57. (currently amended) The one or more devices of claim 53,~~wherein~~ where the ATM tributary data stream has an optical carry rate of in accordance with the SONET standard.

58. (currently amended) The one or more devices of claim 53,~~wherein~~ where the simultaneously received tributary data streams additionally include:

a composite tributary data stream that includes a POS tributary data stream and an ATM tributary data stream.

59. (previously presented) A forwarding node for directing data in a network, the forwarding node including:

means for creating at least two simultaneous tributary synchronous optical network (SONET) data streams, the at least two simultaneous tributary SONET data streams including:

a packet over synchronous optical network (POS) tributary data stream, and

an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) tributary data stream; and

means for transmitting the at least two simultaneous tributary SONET data streams as a single SONET data stream.

60. (currently amended) The forwarding node of claim 59, ~~wherein~~ where the at least two simultaneous tributary data streams additionally include a Point to Point Protocol (PPP) over a DS tributary data stream.

61. (currently amended) The forwarding node of claim 59, ~~wherein~~ where the single SONET data stream has an optical carry (OC) rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

62. (currently amended) The forwarding node of claim 59, ~~wherein~~ where the POS tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

63. (currently amended) The forwarding node of claim 59, ~~wherein~~ where the ATM tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

64. (currently amended) The forwarding node of claim 59, ~~wherein~~ where the at least two simultaneous tributary data streams additionally include:

a composite tributary data stream that includes a POS tributary data stream and an ATM tributary data stream.

65. (currently amended) A method for transmitting information over a fiber optic cable, the method comprising:

constructing, by a switch/router device, a packet over synchronous optical network (POS) data stream;

constructing, by the switch/router device, an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) data stream;

combining, by the switch/router device, the POS data stream and the ATM data stream into a single channelized synchronous optical network (SONET) data stream; and

transmitting, by the switch/router device, the single SONET data stream.

66. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, ~~wherein~~ where the single SONET data stream is transmitted over a single fiber optic cable.

67. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, ~~wherein~~ where the channelized SONET data stream has an optical carry (OC) rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

68. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, ~~wherein~~ where the POS tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.

69. (currently amended) The method of claim 65, ~~wherein~~ where the ATM tributary data stream has an optical carry rate in accordance with the SONET standard.